

REVIEW OF WASHINGTON SPORTS FOR 1906

ATHLETICS SHOW GREAT INCREASE IN ATTENDANCE

Every Form of Competition, Amateur and Professional, Warmly Supported and Has Bright Outlook for Coming Year.

Every branch of sport showed a healthy growth in Washington in the past year, and the outlook for 1907 is even brighter.

Attendance is the best indication of the interest in amusement enterprises, and the attendance at sporting events in the District of Columbia in the past year, with few exceptions, was all that could be desired. Although the Washington American League team was in miserable shape, and at times furnished an article of ball little short of ludicrous, the fans never wavered in their allegiance. The same record made in cities three times the size of Washington would have reduced the rooters to a corporal's guard, but here they turned out every day in numbers sufficiently large to make the season a profitable investment for the stockholders. In the matter of supporting a loser, Washington is the best baseball town on earth.

The most important new sport was the introduction of professional basketball. A strong league has been formed, the attendance has been fairly good, and promises to become much better. Amateur basketball has suffered little by the defection of the professionals, and the amateur league is having its full quota of spectators.

Roller skating was re-introduced last winter, and acquired a tremendous vogue. The rink in Convention Hall has had all it could do to accommodate the devotees of the long-buried pastime.

IMMENSE INTEREST IN FOOTBALL.

Football attracted unusual attention in 1906, because of the new rules, and the games between Georgetown, George Washington University, and the University of Virginia. There was a vast amount of genuine enthusiasm, and it reminded old-timers of the days when Georgetown and Virginia had their annual clash before the quarrel which kept them apart six years.

Golf progressed steadily, and there is talk of trying to get one of the national tournaments for this city. The principal feature of 1906, was the open tournament held by the Columbia Golf Club in the spring, which attracted the leading professionals and amateurs of the entire country.

Rowing had a great year, culminating in the Middle States Regatta, held on the Potomac on Labor Day, in which many records were broken, and in which crews from many distant points participated. A distinct feature of the year on the river was the decision of the Annapolis Boat Club to go regularly into rowing. Fred Plaisted was engaged as coach, and the Annapolites have a bright future. Georgetown's crew finished last at Poughkeepsie, largely because the faculty enforced rules which made proper preparation impossible. The spirit displayed by the men in the boat was magnificent, and their efforts were praised almost as warmly as if they had won.

NO TELLING WHERE BOWLING WILL STOP.

Bowling is becoming contagious, and there is no telling where it will stop. New leagues are being formed every week, and the alleys cannot accommodate all the rollers. Washington did not do very well at the American Bowling Congress in Louisville, but was recognized in the election of officers and enforced its right to be regarded as a potent factor in national bowling affairs.

Followers of the running horses received a bad scare when it was decided that the old system of bookmaking at Benning was illegal. However, the wise head of the turf soon evolved a scheme of betting even more unsatisfactory and annoying than the old, and it is thought that the present "walk-around" style will prove impervious to the attacks of the reformers.

Automobile racing is developing in Washington as rapidly as elsewhere. The Automobile Club moved into its new quarters on the Brightwood road, and the Washington Automobile Association took an active part in securing sensible speed legislation for the District. Barney Oldfield, Eddie Bald, et al., held a series of auto races at Benning in September, but it cannot be said they were a success, the finish being too good to be true.

Trap shooting is appealing to the gunners these days of closed seasons. The Annapolis Gun Club branched out and brought to the city a number of prominent experts for exhibitions and tournaments, and has ambitious plans on foot for next season.

Amateur baseball furnished remarkably close finishes in the various leagues, and the number of fans who missed their supper to see the games, which always began at 5:30 p. m., was astonishing. The Agricultural team of the Departmental League, won the city championship, but only after a fierce fight and by a narrow margin.

THOUSANDS OF BOXING ENTHUSIASTS.

Boxing carried hundreds of enthusiasts to Baltimore to see Kid Sullivan and other notables perform, while one or two private scraps nearer Washington tended to keep the useful and many art of self-defense alive. Between ten and twelve thousand people heard The Times' bulletin from the Gans-Nelson fight on Labor Day.

There was much activity in wrestling, resulting in matches between Joe Grant and Rob Roy Mackey, and Mackey and Alexander Swanson, and Mackey and Eddie Barr. Among the amateurs there were many tournaments, and the bouts attracted many ladies.

Georgetown moved into its new gymnasium in the past fall, appointed Prof. Maurice Joyce physical director, and announced that it would be in for basketball, amateur wrestling and other indoor games. George Washington University, although it has no gym, promptly met the Georgetown move by announcing that it would also have teams in these sports.

Field and track competitions were numerous. The South Atlantic championships were held at Benning and another meet at Luna Park. The Georgetown indoor games were a great success in every way, as were the high school games.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL.

The honors on the scholastic football field again went to Western High School. With Eastern and Business out of the league because of the lack of material, the three remaining—Western, Central, and Technical—had to fight it out alone.

During the early part of the season there was practically no way for the dopesters to pick the winner, as had been the case in former years, when it was possible to get a fairly definite idea of the comparative strength by the results of the games with the weaker eleven. Only after Technical defeated the Army and Navy preps by 6 to 5, and Central lost to the same team by 6 to 0 could a line be gotten on the schools. However, these games pointed little in picking the strongest team, as was shown a month or so later, first, because of the different weather conditions under which each was played, and second, because the personnel of each team was considerably changed.

One thing alone was certain, that Western had light, inexperienced material. Technical met the Red and White before the latter had half a chance to develop, and as was to be expected, had little trouble defeating Western by a large score.

Western Jars the Critics. Then came the charges of professionalism against Capt. August MacDonald, of the Central eleven, and he was cleared and the date for the postponed game set. Central proved superior to Technical by 11 to 4, the losers scoring a goal from the field in the first half and Central doing the rest in the second.

A week later the biggest surprise of the year came when Central's overconfident team went up against Western, which for several weeks had had the efficient services of Thomas Kirby, who had coached the same school into the championship in 1905. Central was beaten by 4 to 0 by a field goal in the first half, and was outplayed in the second. The result of this contest tied all three teams for the championship, but since Western had not lost the title and right of ownership of the Princeton Alumni trophy, the emblem was presented to the midgey gridiron warriors from Georgetown for the second successive time.

WRESTLING.

Wrestling had a fairly good year in Washington in 1906 among the professionals, and a decidedly good one among the amateurs.

Interest in the sport when properly conducted is undoubtedly growing, and its future depends entirely upon those who pull off the matches. Honest bouts will restore the sport to the position it has twenty years ago, while juggling and fixing will kill it beyond all hope of revival.

The principal professional matches were those in which Rob Roy Mackey figured, and he must be given credit for furnishing the public with a run for its money every time he appeared. He and Joe Grant fought out their old feud in the spring in a handicap match. Grant agreed to throw Mackey twice in an hour. He gained one fall in 56 minutes, of the fastest grappling ever seen here, and nearly got another in the remaining four minutes, but a bridge saved Mackey. It was a great bout and when they meet again there should be a record-breaking crowd.

What Mackey Did.

Mackey also wrestled Aleck Swanson here in the spring. Swanson was then the recognized welterweight champion, but he had a busy time winning from the Washingtonians. This fall the only names of prominence have been those in which Mackey stayed an hour with Fred Barthel, and the recent engagement in which he was twice thrown by Eddie Barr.

Joe Grant, the popular Washington middleweight, has been busy in other lines, and has done comparatively little wrestling this year, but he expects to resume in the next month or so. His appearance will be welcomed. Mackey has also planned an extensive campaign, proposing, among other things, to meet in this city Al. Ackerman, who recently won the welterweight title from Swanson.

Joe Turner stands out as about the best of the younger generation of professionals. Jack Spalding has made rapid advances in the ranks of legitimate lightweights, while Nic Ross, Young Hoover, Eddie Baker and others are showing improvement every time they enter a bout.

Boom Among Amateurs.

Amateur grappling has grown remarkably in Washington. Starting two years with about half-a-dozen aspirants, it has advanced until now it has become one of the most popular indoor sports. Every athletic organization in the city has its corps of amateur wrestlers, and some of them are very promising. Among the new recruits to the ranks are Georgetown, where Prof. Maurice Joyce is developing material which he considers of intercollegiate caliber; George Washington, which has men who have made reputations in the ranks of other colleges; the National Guard, and Gallaudet, where T. S. Williams is teaching a large class of his fellow mates how to throw their fellow-men with neatness and dispatch.

Baltimore won all the intercity bouts from Washington but one, but the Baltimoreans will come here this winter to meet the pick of the Washington amateurs, and there is every reason to believe that the Capital will more than hold up its end. Half a dozen open tournaments are scheduled for this season. One has already been pulled off by the Y. M. C. A. and was an unequalled success. The contests in each class were close, and the amateur rules were strictly observed. Frank Huseman's Y. M. C. A. men won the honors, with Carroll Institute second. The Carrollists are after revenge and expect to turn the tables at their own gymnasium in the near future.

BASKETBALL.

The most notable feature of 1906 in Washington basketball was the wholesale desertion of players from the amateur to the professional ranks and the formation of the Greater Washington Professional League, comprising four teams, at the opening of the fall season. The players came from the Washington, Light Infantry, and Eastern Athletic clubs, which started the professional game in Washington, and from other clubs.

The league at present is made up of the Ordways, Commissioners, Infantry, and Eastern A. C. and at the end of the half season, which is just over, finished in the order named after a neck-and-neck race with the first two tied for first place. The games will begin again in January.

Next to importance to the forming of the professional league was the announcement recently published in The Times that both Georgetown and George Washington would have teams in the field at an early date and that already the managers of the respective institutions are arranging a schedule with other colleges, notably the University of Virginia and Annapolis. This is the first year that the college basketball season has been put on a temporary end to the proceedings. After the rain, the meet went on, but under difficulties. However, notwithstanding this, it was a boon for the sport merely to have had the championship games here. Perhaps the most noticeable effect was that Washington teams were given the opportunity to appreciate the true worth of field and track sports to young men, and incidentally greatly evidenced the city's need of a field for holding such outdoor contests.

Besides the increase in the large number of independent teams about the city whose managers bob up every minute or so, and claim the championship of the world in this or that weight, the interest in the Washington City League, the oldest basketball organization in Washington, has grown to a marked degree. At the finish of the season of 1905-06 the Ordway Rifles, under the management of Sergeant Robbins, of the District National Guard, walked away with the title. With the exception of one or two men they are now playing under the name of the Carroll Club, and are a national league. The Ordways won all the nineteen league games, besides four which they took in Baltimore. The Y. M. C. A. was second, losing but two games, which were played with the Carroll Club, the Carroll Club, and Epiphany Chapel, finished in the order named. The Carroll Club, which for a long time has been a power in this league, were independent last year, and did creditable work in Baltimore, New York, Connecticut, and elsewhere in the North, winning the majority of the games.

It was the first time that a Washington team had taken a trip of this kind, and it proved such a decided success that the Second Regiment, led by Capt. E. E. Edwards, will in a few days start on another tour.

The Washington City League season has now on and already some excellent contests have been played. The teams are fairly evenly matched and the race is being won by a narrow margin. The Carroll Club, the Carroll Club, and Epiphany Chapel, finished in the order named. The Carroll Club, which for a long time has been a power in this league, were independent last year, and did creditable work in Baltimore, New York, Connecticut, and elsewhere in the North, winning the majority of the games.

VETERAN SHOOTER



"UNCLE BILLY" WAGNER. He's Been a Trap Expert for Fifty-five Years and Is Still a First-class Trapper.

TRAP SHOOTING.

The Annapolis Gun Club, of this city is one of the largest and most popular clubs of its kind in the country. The year of 1906 has been a prosperous one and the membership has increased until now more than 100 members are enrolled. The officers of the club are as follows: President, C. S. Wilson; vice president, Dr. William C. Barr; treasurer, John Coleman; secretary, Miles Taylor; trustees, W. H. Hunter, M. D. Hogan and W. R. Baker; captain Joseph H. Hunter.

The officers have labored earnestly to promote the interests of the club and place it upon a sound basis both socially and financially, and the size of the membership and the handsome balance in the treasury indicate that their efforts have been successful.

During the year just passed more than 5000 targets were thrown from the two improved automatic traps. A tournament was held on May 20, and the season was closed with a merchandise shoot, which was attended by more than thirty members. At this shoot more than fifty prizes were donated by the club, which were shot for in two events.

The club held a series of "certificate" shoots during the season, which proved quite popular. Four prizes of \$1 each were shot for twice each month. In these contests J. B. Peyton and E. N. Bauskett led, closely followed by John Coleman, W. C. Barr, Joseph Hunter, and M. D. Hogan.

Taylor Gets DuPont Cup.

The principal prize event was for a handsome silver loving cup presented to the club by the DuPont Powder Company. This valuable prize was sought for by many of the leading marksmen during the year and was finally won by the secretary, Messrs. Barr and Bauskett were the runners-up. New shooting grounds, more accessible to the street cars, are to be secured, and as soon as the deal is closed a large and comfortable clubhouse will be erected.

It is also the intention to offer a large number of targets to be shot for by the shooters will be divided into two classes according to their skill, and a special effort will be made in behalf of the beginners and those who cannot shoot in the 50 or 80 per cent classes.

The annual meeting for the election of officers will be held the second Thursday in January, when the program for the year will be mapped out.

The membership of the Annapolites is composed of prominent business men in Washington, Cabinet officers, and many department employees. The oldest member of the club, both in years and in shooting experience is William Wagner, dean of the shooting contingent in Washington. He is popularly known by his friends as "Uncle Billy." He has been a shooter for fifty-five years and has been in the sporting goods business for a period of thirty-one years. His first experience in trap-shooting was at his zenth he could always be found at the big events both North and South. He has a record of 120 live birds without scoring a miss.

Your "Uncle Billy" Wagner.

He attended the Grand American Handicap tournaments—the largest events of this nature ever held in this or any other country. Four times in the great stretch, has been up with the top-notchers, with scores of 23, 24, 24, and 24. At one of these shoots, which will always be memorable on account of the large number of entries, he tied with eight others, all of whom scored all of their birds, 25, and he drew down as his share of the purse \$412.50. Mr. Wagner is today, notwithstanding his age, one of the best all-around shots in the country. It is said that "a prophet is not without honor save in his own country," but this is not true of "Uncle Billy." He is honored by all who know him and admired for his honesty and strict integrity.

Among the younger shooters of the club F. N. Bauskett ranks as the best live bird shot and is entitled to championship honors, he is also a fine target shot. John Coleman, the popular treasurer of the club, Dr. William C. Barr, the vice president, Joseph H. Hunter, the captain, J. B. Brown, Francis Petrola, J. B. Peyton, Dr. W. D. Monroe, Phil Steubener, C. O. Whitte, and a score of others that might be named are all numbered as fine shots and able to hold their own in any company East or West.

New Football Code Is Well Received By Big Crowds

Georgetown and G. W. U. Games With Virginia Mark New Era on Local Gridiron. No Changes Wanted.

College football got a tremendous boost in Washington in 1906, because of the games between Virginia and Georgetown, Virginia and George Washington University, and Georgetown and George Washington.

The restoration of athletics between Georgetown and Virginia has long been desired by the cooler heads of both colleges and the public at large. With each claiming the championship of the eastern and northern south, it was an unsatisfactory arrangement to have them finish each season without meeting. Every sporting instinct demanded that they get together and play an annual game. For many years these plays, ably directed by Captain Bocock, were largely responsible for G. W. U.'s humiliation.

Among other important games Georgetown defeated North Carolina at Norfolk by a score of 13 to 0, and George Washington University held Swarthmore down to 17 to 0 in Washington.

Horrible Fall of G. W. U.

Georgetown was defeated by Virginia on November 19 on Georgetown Field by a score of 13 to 0. The individual work of Randolph and Johnson, the Virginia backs, and because the team was much better posted than the Washingtonians on the possibilities of the new football rules, which received their first trial in 1906. Georgetown had the line, but Virginia had greater resourcefulness and football sense.

George Washington, coached by Crowley, the famous Swarthmore kicker, on November 17, at American League Park, in Washington, held Virginia to a tie of 9 to 9. It was a hard, interesting game, but was scarcely a fair test for the Virginians, as they had to down perceptibly after defeating their hereditary rivals from Georgetown. Still, it was a very creditable game for G. W. U.

Then came the big surprise—the absolute fall down of the George Washington team before Georgetown at Georgetown Field on Thanksgiving Day. On the dope, on appearances and everything else, G. W. U. seemed to have the best chance it had ever had to trim Georgetown, and there was much to be said for the trick which was turned. The result was a Georgetown victory by 16 to 6. The G. W. U. had neither nerve nor stamina, and certain men, notably Sutton, curled up as soon as the fray began. Also, Coach Joe Rellly had driven the new rules into his team since the Virginia game, and these plays, ably directed by Captain Bocock, were largely responsible for G. W. U.'s humiliation.

The holding of the Middle Atlantic States regatta on the Potomac course under the auspices of the Potomac Club of this city was the feature of the best year in aquatic sports that Washington has ever seen. Once before, in 1903, not less than 1000 people were present, and though it was attended with marked success, the affair of last Labor Day far surpassed its predecessor in every respect.

Washington clubs did exceptionally well, notwithstanding the fact that but one race was contested by a local crew. This was the junior eight, in which the Annapolites finished a good second and pushing the Potomacs hard for first place. The only other events in which a local crew was placed was the intermediate eight, in which the Potomacs finished second. The fact that five of the Potomac crew records fell is alone ample excuse if indeed there is need of any, for the locals not doing more than they did.

Following are the records and the crews which set the new marks, together with the former time for the same events. The records were set by Messrs. Ashworth, Dismer brothers, Donath, Dove, Greenwood, Johnstone, Krouse, McLean, Noble, Norwood, Nye, and Toy have been published since 1903, and the prospects are that not only this year, but the year following, will be a great one for the Potomac Club.

While the Middle States was the big event to Washington enthusiasts, it was the sole booster of rowing in the District. Perhaps never before did the local organizations send crews to so many of the towns regattas. Georgetown, of course, was represented at Poughkeepsie, where the Blue and the Gray in all truth did even better than they had in the Potomac regatta.

The further limiting of the number of boats eligible on a racing team will further improve the quality of the races in the future. The Potomac Club is planning for the opening of the racing season, and are eagerly waiting the coming of spring.

Canoeing Has Big Advance.

Daily, the single sculler, of the Potomacs, took part in two out of town regattas, one in Philadelphia, and the other in New York. Although he failed to win at either, he did creditable work. The Potomacs sent an eight to the Jamestown regatta, and were beaten out at the finish through a mistake.

Not only did rowing prosper, but canoeing was more popular than ever. Washingtonians are rapidly losing the needless fear of this healthy, and, at the same time, most enjoyable of outdoor recreations, as is attested by the great increase in the number of the dainty little shells which are to be seen on the Potomac every afternoon during the summer months. Last year there were fifty-five launches kept along the water front, and it is remarkable that but two accidents resulted seriously. Both were the result of absolute carelessness on the part of those concerned, and should not be cited as evidence of the danger of the sport.

Two regattas were held by the Inter-Canoe Club Association, the first on the upper Potomac, and the second known as Broadwater, in May, and the second just above the Aqueduct bridge in September. They came up to all expectations and are to be repeated in 1907, as they give those who may remain away from the river front all their lives, never see a canoe, and then express the foolish opinion that canoeing is one way of finding what is on the other side of the River Styx, a chance to form a different view on the subject.

The election in April of John P. Welcher, of the Corinthian Yacht Club, of this city, to the office of vice commodore of the American Motor Boat Association was perhaps the most important event that happened in the yachting world of interest to local am-

GOLF.

Washingtonians in the past year were treated to some of the best golf since the adoption of the sport in the District. There were a half-dozen or more small tournaments on both the Columbia and Chevy Chase links, but five stand out as important.

The first of these brought together some of the best talent seen in this city, and some good golf developed before the feature, the four-ball foursome medal play, was won by Alex Ross, the Brae Burn professional, and W. K. Wood, of the same club, who turned in a card of 35 for thirty-six holes.

The second, the Skidauqua players, who took the honors in the next tournament held here, and Donald Ball, Philadelphia, tied for second money, with L. A. Hamilton, Englewood, and Bernard Nichols, Hollywood.

Outside Bat Columbian.

It was fate that an outsider should take first honors in the open spring tournament. T. M. Sherman, of the Skidauqua Club, defeating Samuel Dalzell, of Columbia, and third consolation went to M. Thompson, Chevy Chase. The greens had never been in better condition, owing to just enough wet weather preceding the tourney. Notwithstanding the fact that a number of expert outsiders were entered in competition with the local enthusiasts, the latter carried off the majority of the prizes, Columbia taking six out of fourteen, Chevy Chase five, and the Invaders three.

L. White, of Chevy Chase, took the honors in the first sixteen with T. Leake, of Columbia, runner-up; E. B. Eymon, and J. F. Hough, both of Columbia, finished in the order named in the third sixteen, and B. Woodruff, of Columbia, and C. A. Crampton, of Chevy Chase, were the winner and runner-up, respectively, in the fourth sixteen. The first second, and third consolation went to M. Thompson, Chevy Chase; H. D. Dalzell, Pittsburg, and W. F. Ham, Chevy Chase, in the order mentioned. T. M. Sherman had the lowest handicap gross score, while the lowest net score was made by G. T. S. Allwood, Columbia.

L. L. Harlan Wins Again.

The fall tournament was much more of a local affair than the former. It practically resolved itself into a contest for honors between Chevy Chase and Columbia. The real feature was the bad weather, which held the public away before it came off, there has been a incessant downpour, which put the grounds in bad shape, and old Pluvious, not satisfied with this, worked overtime during the three days of play. Dr. L. L. Harlan, who has long been acknowledged as Washington's foremost golfer, was again winner, beating A. S. Mittingly in the final by a fair margin. Ormsby McCammon won the prize handicap. McCammon also turned in the lowest gross score, and B. Woodruff handed in the lowest net score.

The tournament held on the Chevy Chase grounds in the fall proved to be as much as a success as any of those held by the Columbia management. Dr. L. L. Harlan was in the best of form, and had little trouble winning first honors and the handsome Club Cup from J. C. Davidson, of Columbia. The winners and runners-up in the remaining sixteen follow, in order: R. Wier, Washington, consolation; B. Jenkin, Chevy Chase; J. W. Bowerman, Bannockburn, Players' Cup; E. J. Hasse, Mt. Airy; F. M. Phelps, Columbia, Sweepstakes Cup; G. E. Lewis, Columbia.

Cup for Tuckerman.

On November 3 the club held a competition to determine the holder of the Siamese minister's cup, W. R. Tuckerman finishing first in a field of thirty-two.

A matter of interest was the agitation by some Washingtonians of the benefits to be derived from holding a public golf course here, but after a rather feeble discussion by those interested the subject seems to have been dropped.

TENNIS.

The past year has seen many changes in the tennis world of Washington. In fact, there has been only one champion undisputed when you look back over the close of the season a year ago. And that is Conrad B. Doyle still is the undisputed champion of the District of Columbia.

It is true that he was hard pushed in the final round of the tournament here for the championship of the Middle Atlantic States last May by Richard Hooker, but Hooker is by rights a New England player. In the tournament for the championship of the District held this fall, Doyle had no difficulty whatever in retaining his title, although George Hagan was in good form. But Doyle still stands the champion by himself here.

The fact that the Bachelors' Tennis Club has been compelled to abandon its old quarters, on M street, will mean much to the men in Washington who are most interested in tennis. True, the standard of play at the Bachelors' Club has not been as high the past year, as it was two or three years ago, which is due in part to the fact that such old-timers as Davidson and Glazebrook have dropped out and that other men have moved away from Washington. But in spite of this, the Bachelors' Club has been the chief tennis center of the city during the past year. The future of the club depends largely upon whether or not it is able to find suitable quarters, quarters that will be conveniently located.

The play at the Y. M. C. A. courts has greatly improved the past year. Hylman Sherman, of the Washington Tennis association and later was runner-up in the championship of the District of Columbia, is a steady player and has shown better form right along. The Y. M. C. A. made plans to hold an open tournament during the summer, and it is to be regretted that it was not pulled off for open tournaments are a great encouragement to the sport.

Some of the best courts in and about Washington are those of the Chevy Chase Club. They were in constant use all last spring and summer. Glazebrook, Marrow, and Grosvenor were among the best of the players there.